

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A printing method, comprising:
 - 5 relaying a non-rendered document from a local printer to a host coupled thereto, the non-rendered document being received in the local printer from a portable device via a portable device communications port;
 - 10 identifying one of a number of applications in the host that is compatible with the non-rendered document;
 - 15 rendering the non-rendered document with the one of the number of applications into a format compatible with the local printer, thereby creating a rendered document; and
 - 20 sending the rendered document to the local printer for printing.
2. The printing method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 15 determining a file type of the non-rendered document; and
 - 20 wherein the step of identifying the one of the number of applications in the host that is compatible with the non-rendered document further comprises searching through the number of applications in the host to identify the one of the number of applications that is compatible with the file type.
3. The printing method of claim 1, further comprising storing the non-
 - 25 rendered document received from the local printer in a memory in the host.
4. The printing method of claim 1, further comprising wirelessly
 - 30 communicating with the portable device, wherein the portable device communications port is a wireless communications port.

5. The printing method of claim 1, further comprising the step of rendering the non-rendered document with the one of the number of applications into the format compatible with the local printer further comprises launching the one of the number of applications in the host with instructions to print the non-rendered 5 document using the local printer.

6. The printing method of claim 2, further comprising:
generating a print failure message in the host upon a failure to
10 identify the one of the number of applications in the host that is compatible with the file type;
transmitting the print failure message to the local printer; and
printing the print failure message using the local printer.

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7. A program stored on a computer readable medium for providing a rendering service in a host, comprising:
code that determines a file type of a non-rendered document received from a local printer in data communication with the host;
20 code that identifies one of a number of applications to render the non-rendered document in the host that is compatible with the file type of the non-rendered document; and
code that launches the one of the number of applications in the host with a set of instructions to print the non-rendered document on the local printer.

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8. The program stored on a computer readable medium of claim 7, further comprising:

code that generates a print failure message in the host upon a failure to identify the one of the number of applications in the host that is compatible with
5 the file type of the non-rendered document; and

code that transmits the print failure message to the local printer for printing.

10 9. The program stored on a computer readable medium of claim 7, further comprising code that stores the non-rendered document received from the local printer in a memory in the host.

15 10. A system to print a document, comprising:

a host having a processor circuit with a processor and a memory;
a document rendering service stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the document rendering service comprising:

20 logic that stores a non-rendered document in the memory, the non-rendered document being received from a local printer in data communication with the host;

25 logic that determines a file type of the non-rendered document;
logic that identifies one of a number of applications that is compatible with the file type of the non-rendered document to render the non-rendered document in the host; and

logic that launches the one of the number of applications in the host with a set of instructions to print the non-rendered document on the local printer.

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11. The system of claim 10, wherein the document rendering service further comprises:

logic that generates a print failure message in the host upon a failure to identify the one of the number of applications in the host that is compatible with the file type of the non-rendered document; and

5 logic that transmits the print failure message to the local printer for printing.

10 12. A document relay system in a printer, comprising:
a processor circuit with a processor and a memory;
a portable device communications port coupled to the processor circuit to establish a data communication between the printer and a remote device;
and

15 a document relay service stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the document relay service comprising:
logic that determines whether a document received from the remote device via the portable device communications port is rendered in a format compatible with the printer; and

20 logic that relays the document to a host to be rendered for the printer if the document is not compatible with the printer.

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13. A printing system, comprising:

a host and a local printer coupled thereto, the local printer having a portable device communications port with which to establish a communications link a portable device;

means in the local printer for relaying a non-rendered document
5 received via the portable device communications port to the host for rendering; and
means in the host for orchestrating a rendering of the non-rendered document into a rendered document with a printer format compatible with the local printer, the non-rendered document being rendered using one of a number of applications in the host; and
10 means in the host for transmitting a rendered document to the local printer to be printed.

14. The printing system of claim 13, wherein the host further comprises:
15 means for determining a file type of the non-rendered document; and
means for identifying the one of the number of applications in the host that is compatible with the file type.

20 15. The printing system of claim 13, wherein the host further comprises means for storing the non-rendered document relayed by the local printer in a memory in the host.

25 16. The printing system of claim 13, wherein the portable device communications port is a wireless communications port to facilitate a wireless communication link between the printer and the portable device.

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17. The printing system of claim 13, wherein the means in the host for orchestrating the rendering of the non-rendered document into the rendered

document further comprises means for launching the one of the number of applications in the host with instructions to print the non-rendered document using the local printer.

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18. The printing system of claim 14, further comprising:
 - means in the host for generating a print failure message upon a failure to identify the one of the number of applications in the host that is compatible with the file type; and
 - means for transmitting the print failure message to the local printer.

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